

FACTS FOR THE PEOPLE

IN RELATION TO A PROTECTIVE TARIFF.

Embracing a Brief Review of the Operations of Our Tariff Law Since the Organization of the Government, Including That of 1842.

BY JAMES WATSON.

Every tax is an evil. But far as it is necessary to defray the expenses of Government, it is a necessary evil. When such expenses become extravagant, the additional tax thereby created is as unnecessary and unjustified evil. It is the duty of Government, therefore, to avoid such expenses as much as possible, and to lessen the burden of the taxes.

There has always been a tariff law in the United States. It was first enacted, since the first Congress under the Constitution. No serious proposition has ever been made in Congress or by the Government to abolish it. The only content has been between those who are for a high, or as it is sometimes called, a protective tariff, and those who are for a low revenue tariff.

On this point the testimony of Daniel Webster himself, who is in favor of a high tariff, should be sufficient. In his speech on the tariff, in Congress, April, 1842, he says, "Consider that our whole revenue, with a trifling exception, is collected at the custom-house, and always has been, and then say what propriety there is in supposing the Government for protection (to manufacturers) as if no protection had heretofore been afforded."

Thus, both political parties have always been in favor of a tariff of some kind, and have always had, on the question, it is what to do with the tariff? It is simply this: Those who style themselves the Democratic party are in favor of a revenue tariff, and those who style themselves the Whig party are in favor of a high, or as they call it, a protective tariff.

A revenue tariff is a tax on imported goods as sufficient to pay the expenses of the Government, and no more.

A high or protective tariff is a higher tax on such goods, and, of course, beyond what is necessary for the support of Government.

The friends of a high tariff insist that such a measure is necessary to protect our own manufactures, and that foreign articles are made so cheap, abroad that they would, unless they were heavily taxed, undersell similar articles made by the manufacturers in this country.

They contend that the people ought to be made to pay a tariff on their cotton, shirting and sheeting, their flannels and baizes, their cassimere and other coarse manufactures, and articles made of iron and steel, their salt, and many other articles of necessity and daily use in every log cabin in the country, so as to enable the large cotton and woolen cloth, and other manufacturers of some of the old States, and the salt companies, to stand on a higher plane.

And this they insist is necessary to enable these manufacturers and companies to carry on their business.

They know, however, that the people, and especially the poorer part of them, would like to sell their cotton, shirting, flannel, or salt, for a full, or at least a fair value, and to buy their necessities as cheap as possible; and therefore, to reconcile them to this tax, they say that it is to be laid only until the manufacturers and companies are able to stand alone and make their articles as cheap as the foreign ones, and therefore that the people, in the long run, will be benefited by it.

But the small amount of tariff tax upon some protection to similar articles made in our country.

It is this plain to be denied, and we have always had some kind of a tariff. The question then, is, in what to do with the tariff? It is simply this: Those who style themselves the Democratic party are in favor of a revenue tariff, and those who style themselves the Whig party are in favor of a high, or as they call it, a protective tariff.

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AT THE CAPITAL.

Col. Forbes Visits the Geological Survey and Bureau of Agriculture.

THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

This department is composed largely of cabinets of museum curiosities. On entering the room, the visitor is struck by the number of the large oil paintings, which are portraits of Indian chiefs and well frontier scenery, while those on paper represent domestic land and water scenes.

The collection of stuffed birds in the hall had higher taxes on the articles, although similar articles were made by those who claim that they would be benefited by it.

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EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

W. E. Huxley, Editor. All communications should be addressed to him, Pleasant River, N. J.

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It is more blessed to give than to receive. It is not always expedient to tell you how to do it. It is far more important to know how to do it.

A bell rung in a vacuum emits no sound. No bell rung in a vacuum emits no sound. No bell rung in a vacuum emits no sound.

The principal uses of the hammer are to indicate the weather, and to measure the height of mountains. It is the outcropping of our generosity that makes some men no easier to give their husbands a piece of their mind.

Copper is the best conductor of electricity and is used in all electrical experiments. Glass is one of the best insulators.

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An experienced young man says it only takes one letter to express the difference between the ancient and the modern style of courtship.

The money you have laid out all the time working for you, but that which you are not using keeps you all the time working for it.

When a lawyer tells his client that he has a "good" case, he means that he will pay well.

By writing to a good person, it is said that a person in old-fashioned times, by writing about in his stockholding, could develop some electricity in his mind.

I must be allowed to apologize for the non-appearance of my column in this issue, for the next time, I shall have to do so.

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